

With the understanding that ham radio operators and stations perform a function which is beneficial to this nation (ARES RACES etc.), I am greatly distressed to learn that there is a possibility of wide band data being superimposed on power distribution lines. The noise floor in this country has been growing upward for years as we add electronic devices to our homes. Touch lamps, poorly-designed TV sets, Computers and computer monitors, microwave ovens, electric welders in the home shop, photo-cell light controls etc. added to the radio noise of leaking power line insulators and lighting arresters - all add up to form the noise floor limiting radio communication. We are still able to operate, though hampered in urban areas by electrical noise, but this plan to add wide band data energy to the power distribution system is potentially the most harmful noise source with the added dimension that such a large portion of the radio spectrum would be greatly impacted. Note that "carrier current" telemetry and control systems used by the power companies are not supposed to radiate a significant radio signal any significant distance but they not only do radiate radio signals - they make many VLF frequencies unusable because the radiated signals saturate the frequencies with very strong signals at great distances. Broadband data via powerlines is much more dangerous. Please help clean up the noise already out there, don't make it worse. An elevated noise floor has the potential to harm everyone and every agency depending on radio communication - the plan for broadband on the powerlines is a great step in the wrong direction for everything from homeland security to HF disaster relief communications.

Thank you for reading this.

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